UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY
FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT OF PINE BEETLE SURVEYS OF THE BONANZA AND BLY AREAS KLAMATH BASIN, OREGON

PROTECTION UNITS OF THE
KLAMATH FOREST PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
AND THE FREMONT NATIONAL FOREST

October 1938

By

F. P. Keen

Senior Entomologist

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine

Forest Insect Laboratory
445 U.S. Court House
Portland, Oregon

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Description of the areas	2
Pine beetle damage	3
Control work	5
Table 1 Acreage and timber resources of the Bonanza and Bly Areas	3
Table 2 Relation of estimated 1938 loss to 1937 loss on Bonanza and Bly Area plots	4
Table 3 Pine beetle damage on sample plots, Bonanza and Bly Areas	6
Table 4 Summary of cruising data on sample plots, Bonanza and Bly Areas	8
Table 5 Estimated ponderosa pine losses for 1937 on units of the Bonanza Area	9
Table 6 Estimated ponderosa pine losses for 1937 on units of the Bly Area	10
Table 7 Estimated beetle losses on the Bonanza Area, 1921-1937	11
Table 8 Estimated beetle losses on the Bly Area, 1921-1937	12
Chart Trend of western pine beetle losses on eight sample plots of Bonanza and Bly Areas, 1921-1937.	
Table 9 Control work conducted on Bonanza and Bly Areas, 1933-1937	13
Man Western pine beetle survey, Bonanza Area.	
Map Western pine beetle survey, Bly Area.	

Introduction

Pine beetle surveys of the Bonanza and Bly Areas have been conducted annually since 1921 to determine the yearly trend of western pine beetle epidemics, the distribution of timber losses, the need for control work, and the results of such work as was undertaken on these areas. The first surveys, from 1921 to 1924, were conducted in connection with the Southern Oregon-Northern California Pine Beetle Control Project; from 1925 to 1930 these were continued by the Bureau of Entomology as a part of their study program; and from 1931 to the present, they have been conducted jointly, as a part of the regional bark beetle surveys, by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, the Forest Service, and the Office of Indian Affairs. The long series of annual loss records for these plots are becoming increasingly valuable in showing the rapid change in forest stand conditions brought about by beetle activity, and how these beetle epidemics have fluctuated in response to climatic changes. Unfortunately, the record cannot be continued for very many more years, as the timberlands are largely in private ownership and logging operations are rapidly removing the old-growth stands in these areas.

The last report summarizing pine beetle conditions on the Bonanza and Bly Areas was made in November 1933. Since then, five years of records have accumulated, so the present report reviews conditions during the period 1934 to 1938 inclusive and summarizes the recent loss record.

During the past five years, the sample plots have been annually recruised, either by men employed by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, or with the help of CCC personnel or field assistants employed by the Forest Service. In 1934, the work was conducted by W. J. Buckhorn with the help of Messrs. Brooks and Simpson, enrollees from the Bly CCC Camp. In 1935, Messrs. Russell Pardue, Ted Emery, and Fred Stone, employed by the Forest Service on regular funds, cruised the plots and ran strips through these areas to determine the general distribution of losses. In 1936 some of the plots in the Bly Area were first cruised from the Bly CCC Camp by CCC student assistants consisting of Messrs. Willerd Mannan, G. W. Allison, John A. Carnegie, and Homer F. Matz, working under the supervision of W. J. Buckhorn. Later in the year, plot and strip work was conducted by Messrs. Franklin Brame, Jack Wood, and Claire Gordon, employed by the Forest Service as a part of the general regional bark beetle survey program. In 1937 CCC student assistants with one or two years of

forestry training in college were available for this survey work and a crew of five men consisting of Jack Coskey, Ralph Brinck, Edwin Santee, and Martin Robertson, with Franklin Brame in charge, did intensive work on the sample plots, including a 10 percent green stand cruise and notes on ecological conditions. The 1938 survey was conducted by Messrs. Ashley Poust, George Foley, and Kendall Wood, employed by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Current losses were tallied and marked and most of the plots were recruised for green stand, using a random 1/4-acre plot method. General estimates for the Bonanza and Bly Areas were made by the writer from plot and observational data.

Description of the Areas

The Bonanza and Bly Areas have been described in previous reports and are shown on the attached maps, so they do not need to be described in detail now.

Bonanza Area. -- This area takes in the private timberlands between the south boundary of the Klamath Indian Reservation and the California line in Klamath County, Oregon. It previously constituted a portion of Area 2 of the Southern Oregon-Northern California Pine Beetle Control Project, except that the Bryant Mountain and Stukel Mountain units were not included in that project.

Since 1921 a large part of the western portion of the Area, including the Swan Lake, Hildebrand, and Rocky Canyon units, has been cut over and then burned, and no longer carries sufficient mature ponderosa pine to support beetle infestations. Most of the mature timber now lies in the Goodlow, Royston, and Willow Flat Units, and these latter two units are now being logged.

Bly Area. -- This area takes in the timbered slopes of the Sprague River Valley around Bly, Oregon (see attached map). Originally the area constituted the northern portion of Area 3, of the Southern Oregon-Northern California Pine Beetle Control Project. It was on this part of Area 3 that most of the early control work was done.

The timber is largely in private ownership but includes a few sections within the Fremont National Forest. Some logging has been under way during the past 10 years, and a large portion

of the Horsefly and Whitworth Units are now cut over. The main body of timber lies north of Bly in the Meryl Creek and Merritt Creek Units, and on this cutting operations have just recently started.

The timbered area involved and the volume of ponderosa pine estimated as of January 1, 1938, are shown in Table No. 1.

Table No. 1

Acreage and Timber Resources
of the Bonanza and Bly Areas
as of January 1, 1938

Area and Ownership	Timbered Acres	Volume of Pine Mbm	Percent of Stand
BONANZA AREA			
Private	140,000	356 , 000	64.2
Public Domain	20,000	80,000	14.5
Fremont National			
Forest	17,000	100,000	18.0
State	3,000	<u>18,000</u>	3.3
Total	180,000	554, 000	100.0
BLY AREA			
Private	106,000	1,060,000	58 • 5
Fremont National			
Forest	64,000	525,000	28.8
Public Domain	33,000	230,000	<u>12.7</u>
Total	203,000	1,815,000	100.0

Pine Beetle Damage

The Bonanza and Bly Areas have been repeatedly hit by epidemics of the western pine beetle. Following drought conditions which became critical in 1917, a bad outbreak developed in 1918 and 1919 which brought attention to the severe damage which this insect could inflict upon a ponderosa pine forest and resulted in the inauguration of the Southern Oregon-Northern California Pine

Beetle Control Project in 1921. During the period of this project, from 1921 to 1924, losses were held at a comparatively low level. Then, with a continuation of drought conditions, a second epidemic developed, reached a peak in 1926, and declined by 1929. A third epidemic ran its course between 1930 and 1936, reaching its greatest intensity in 1932, with an estimated loss on the two areas of 86,500 M.b.m., or about 3.2 percent of the stand. One section showed a loss of 8.7 percent of the stand for that year, and another section showed a loss of 10.2 percent of the stand for 1931. These three epidemic cycles are shown graphically in the chart accompanying this report. Table No. 3 gives the detailed loss figures for the various sample plots since 1933, and Table No. 4 summarizes these records since 1931. Estimated losses for the areas from 1921 to the present time are shown in Tables No. 7 and No. 8.

In 1937 losses reached a low stage, as shown in Table No. 5 for the Bonanza Area and Table No. 6 for the Bly Area, ranging from 36 to 72 board feet per acre in virgin pine stands and from 3 to 22 board feet per acre on cut-over units. The distribution of these 1937 losses is shown on the attached maps.

The 1938 survey was conducted during August, when less than 50 percent of the total year's loss had developed. By using an estimating factor, based on the date of the cruise, the total 1938 loss was estimated as shown in the following table:

Table No. 2

Relation of Estimated 1938 Loss to 1937 Loss on Bonanza and Bly Area Plots

Plot	: :Site:	Ft. Elev.:	Date of Cruise		193 7 Cruis			Loss :Est.To	_:Ratio t:1938 to '37
Meryl Creek, Sec.20	: 3 :	5600 :	8/31/38	. •	25	• 93	66	: 132	: 1.42%
Owens	: 3-:	5500 :	8/19/38	•	41	• 90	• 47	• 115	• 1.28
Merritt Creek	· 3_ :	5400	9/1/38		17	56	: 28	5 6	: 1.00
Meryl Creek, Sec.11	: 3- :	5300	8/26/38	•	16	: 66	: 29	: 63	•96
Deming Creek	: 4+:	5200:	8/25/38	to a first a first	8	: 60	: 21	: 46	: .77
Royston	: 4+:	5200:	8/16/38		17	: 60	: 11	: 30	• 50
Whitworth Creek	: 4 :	5200:	8/22/38		29	:102	: 24	: 56	: •55
Goodlow	; 4 :		8/10/38	第一句 计编码 化化二氯	11	: 51	: 19	: 57	: 1.12
Total					164	578	245	555	.96
Average per Section				:	20.5	. 72.8	30.6	69.	4 :

One result of the heavy losses of mature timber, which have taken place during the past 20 years and in some cases represent as much as 51 percent of the 1921 stand volume, has been to completely "burn out" the beetle susceptible trees on the lower slopes of the Sprague River Valley on the poorer sites, or "fungi" types, and move the more recent losses back into beetle sites at the higher elevations. At the present time, epidemic losses of more than 100 trees per section are only found on two of the highest check plots in good sites, i.e., Meryl Creek, T 35S, R 15E, Sec 20, and Owens, T 38S, R 15E, Sec 1. On other plots the 1938 loss either is declining, stationary, or at a low ebb.

On the basis of these preliminary estimates, it appears that even though the 1938 summer loss has been greater than that of 1937 that the total loss for the year will be slightly less than that of 1937. The only sections showing an increase are those above 5,400 feet elevation where the site runs to 3- or better.

Control Work

During the past five years, a large amount of control work has been conducted on the Meryl Creek, Merritt Creek, and Deming Creek Units by the Klamath Forest Protective Association. In the fall of 1935 control work was done on the Deming Creek Unit by the Bly CCC Camp. The period of work, number of trees treated, and cost of control are shown in Table No. 9.

As this control was done at a time when the general trend of beetle activity was downward, it is impossible to say how much additional decrease in the losses was due to control. Undoubtedly, the control work helped to break up the larger groups and concentrations of beetle population, and in this way made possible the full effect of the natural decline.

As will be noted by Table No. 2 and the map accompanying this report, there are still epidemic centers of beetle infestation in parts of the Bly Area, particularly in the better sites. Now that the loss trend has reached a low level but shows signs of increasing, there may be need of maintenance control to break up epidemic centers and hold the infestation at a low stage.

Table No. 3

Pine Beetle Damage on Sample Plots Bonanza and Bly Areas--Klamath Basin 1933 - 1937

					Ă	Beetle Losses	Ø		
Unit and Plot Location	: Acres : Timbered :	Stand Vol. 1931 Mbm	Site	; Year of: Attack:	Trees Killed	Volume Killed	Bd.ft.	% Stand	Remarks
BONANZA AREA				: 1933	111	096,44	130	889	: This section not
Goodlow Mt.				: 1934 : 1935	210 220	140,060 106,130	233	1.59	disturbed by control work or
T 39S, R 13E, Sec 5:	: 009 :	8,846	4	1936	83	44,540	. 74	20	: fire since 1918.
				1937	덦	31,150	: 52	• 35	
Royston				1933	113	83,270	: 186	1.51	
T 383, R 12E, Sec 10	:. 440 :	5,520	‡	. 1934 . . 1935	104 184	77,270	: 175 : 969		
				1936 :	151 53	40,000		.72	
				: 1937 :	09	29,930	 88	• 54	
									in 1937.
Willow Flat									
T 37S, R 14E, Sec 20:	630	5,893	41	: 1933 :	187	146,955	233	2.5	
BLY AREA				1933	123	101,940	176	1.29	nor
				1934	79	58,520	101	₽.24	of 40's in spring
Deming Creek				1935	6	81,530	. 141	1.03	• of 1934.
T 36S, R 15E, Sec 25	• • 086	, 9/8,	‡	. 1936	75	49,940	98		
				. 1937 . :	00	45,170	. 78	• 57	
Deming Creek			Ť	1933	180	121,325	202	2,38	
T 36S, R 15E, Sec 8	. 009	5,11.7	4 -	1934	132	80,340	134	1.57	
			たいだい できる おれい			E	- T	E	

Table No. 3 continued on next page.

Table No. 3 (continued)

Unit and : Acres Plot Location : Timbered BLY AREA (cont.) Owens T 58S, R 15E, Sec 1 : 560						+				
t	: Stand Vol.	• •• ••	Site	Year of Attack	Trees Kille	Sector Dosses : Volume d : Killed	2	Bd.ft.	% Stand	Remarks
			3	1933 1934 1935 1936 1936	: 231 : 179 : 118 : 68 : 90			303 294 183 92 212	1.52 1.47 .92 .46	
Merritt Creek T 333, R 14E, Sec 34 620	13,157		j,	1933 1934 1935 1936 1937	: 103 : 144 : 135 : 49 : 56	116,790 162,100 162,000 60,710		188 261 261 261 98	.89 1.23 1.23 .46	Treated in fall, 1935. Reduction 62.5%.
Meryl Creek T 35S, R 14E, Sec 11: 640		: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	50	1933 1934 1935 1936 1937	200 263 101 104 66	159,660 174,450 98,480 70,080 60,080		249 273 154 109 94	1.42 1.55 .62 .62	Treated in spring, 1935. Reduction 43.7%. Treated in winter, 1936. Reduction 14.2%.
Meryl Creek T 35S, R 15E, Sec 20 640	12,077		တ	1933 1934 1935 1936 1937	: 279 : 184 : 103 : 110 : 93	: 259,110 : 188,240 : 69,410 : 73,940	······································	405 : 294 : 108 : 115 : 141 : .	2.14 1.56 1.57 61	Treated in spring, 1935. Reduction 63.2%. Treated in winter, 1936. Increase 22.2%.
Whitworth Creek T 37S, R 16E, Sec 17 640	5,042	: : :	4	1933 1934 1935 1936 1937	: 153 : 151 : 151 : 185 : 102	76,780 71,380 83,310 55,400 65,980	••••	120 : 111 : 130 : 86 :	1.52 1.41 1.65 1.10	

Table No. 4
Summary of Cruising Data on Sample Plots
Bonanza and Bly Areas

		: Timbered :			: Trees		.	: Volume of
Year of	: No.of	: Acres :	Trees	: Volume	: per	: Bd.Ft.	: %	: Stand
Attack	: Plots	: Cruised :	Killed	: Killed	: Section	: per Acre	Stand	
			Tota	ls for All Pl	0+4			
			1000		. <u></u>	•		
1931	: 14 :	8,370	4,631	3,462,880	330	419	2.97	116,911,830
1932	: 14 :	8,370	6,586	4,892,550	470	585	4.19	116,911,830
1933	: : 10	6,010	1,680	1,313,640	: : 168	218	1.53	85,968,190
1934	• •	5,380	1,446	1,117,110	161	208	1.40	80,075,390
1935	: 8	4,780	1,141	818,750	143	: 171	1.09	74,958,020
1936	: 8	4,780	658	446,350	82	• • 93	•60	74,958,020
- 1937	: : 8	4,780	5 7 8	503,260	72	: : 105	.67	74,958,020
			Totals	for Continuou	s <u>Plots</u>			
1931	: 8	4,780	2,742	2,087,910	343	436	2.78	: 74,958,020 :
1932	. 8	4,78 0	4,292	: 3,136,670	535	• 655 •	4.18	: 74,958,020
1933	8	4 , 780	1,313	1,045,360	164	218	: 1.39	: 74,958,020
1934	• • 8	4,780	1,314	1,036,770	. 164	216	: 1.38	74,958,020
1935	• • 8	4 ,7 80	1,141	818,750	143	: 171	1.09	: 74,958,020
1936	8	4 ,7 80	658	446,350	82	93	.60	: 74,958,020
_ 1 93 7	• • 8	4,7 80	578	503,260	72	105	• •67	. 74,958,020

Pable No. 5

Estimated Ponderosa Pine Losses for 1937 on Units of the Bonanza Area

Table No. 6

Estimated Ponderosa Pine Losses for 1937 on Units of the Bly Area

	Forest Acreage	reage :	Volume of :		Estimate	Estimated 1937 Loss	
Unit	Total	Virgin : Pine :	Pine - 1938 : Mbm :	Trees	Volume Mbm	: Bd.Ft. : Per Acre	: Percent : of Stand
Merritt Creek	25,000	18,700	275,000 :	1,200	1,500	52	₽•
Meryl Creek	000,09	48,000	630,000	3,100	2,800	47	. 45
Deming Greek	27,000	22,300	. 000,022	1,800	1,300	48	• 259
Whitworth Greek	30,000	21,300	. 295,000	1,250	1,100	37	57
Owens .	26,000	20,000	265,000	1,900	1,600	62	00
Horsefly	35,000	21,000	130,000	1,750	1,400	• •	: 1.08
rotal	203,000	15 1 , 300	1,815,000	11,000	6,500	47	. 52

Table No. 7

Estimated Beetle Losses on the Bonanza Area

Total Acreage and Pine Stand in 1921

Area - 155,000 Acres.

Volume of Stand - 1,571,000 Mbm.

	Trees	Volume	Percent of
Year	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Killed</u>	1921 Stand
1921	21,010	18,910	1.2
1922	16,140	15,840	1.0
1923	10,120	9,040	. 6
1924	16,950	16,940	1.1
1925	38,300	34,220	2.2
1926	55,700	35,630	2.3
1927	54,300	34,050	2.2
1928	42,400	27,920	1.8
1929	22,000	15,940	1.0
1930	24,500	_ 12,100	•8
Total for			
Decade	301,420	220,590	14.0

Total Acreage and Pine Stand in 1931 *

Area - 175,000 Acres.

Volume of Stand - 800,000 Mbm.

# 14 10 12 13 13 13 14 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15	Trees	Volume	Percent of
Year	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Killed</u>	1931 Stand
1931	28,300	18,500	2.3
1932	33,000	21,500	2.7
1933	16,000	10,000	1.2
1934	20,000	12,000	1,5
1935	20,000	11,000	1.4
1936	9,500	5,000	•6
1 93 7	<u>7,000</u>	3, 500	
Cotal for			
7 years	133,800	81,500	10.2

^{*} Includes Bryant Mt. and Stukel Mt. Units not previously considered.

Table No. 8

Estimated Beetle Losses on the Bly Area *

Total Acreage and Pine Stand in 1921

Area - 208,000 Acres.

Volume of Stand - 2,500,000 Mbm.

of and

Total Acreage and Pine Stand in 1931

Area - 203,000 Acres.

Volume of Stand - 1,920,000 Mbm.

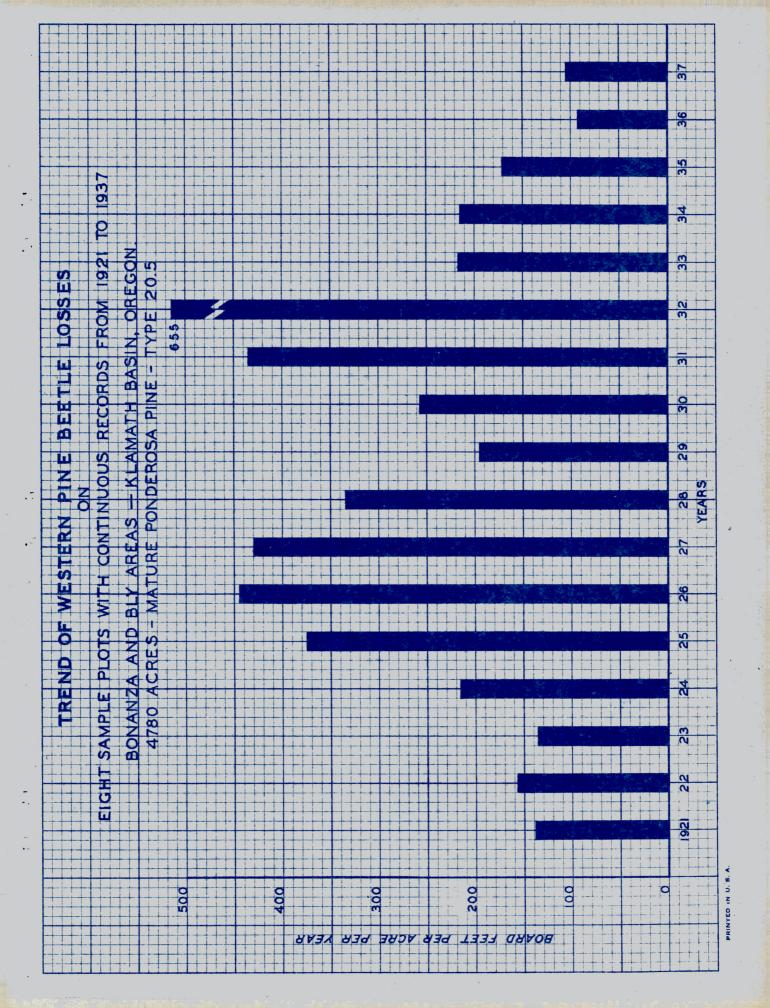
	Trees	Volume	Percent of
<u>Year</u>	Killed	<u>Killed</u>	<u>1931 Stand</u>
1931	53,000	41,200	2.2
1932	90,000	65,000	3.4
1933	31,000	24,000	1.2
1934	30,000	22,000	1.2
1935	22,000	17,500	•9
1936	12,000	10,000	•5
1937	11,000	9,500	
otal for			
7 years	250,000	189,200	9.9

^{*} Includes the Merritt Creek, Meryl Creek, Deming Creek, Whitworth Creek, Owens, and Horsefly Units.

Table No. 9

Control Work Conducted on the Bonanza and Bly Areas 1933---1937

Work Done by	KFPA	: KFPA	KFPA	: ECW - Forest : Service	. KTPA
Cost	\$2,472.23	5,888.63	2,932,10	2,451.00	2,634.95
Acres Govered	: : 4,440	15,160	9,200	088 ° 6	5,680
Volume Treated Mbm	1,625	3,568	1,703	1	848
Trees Treated	1,145	2,913	1,303	540	909
Unit	Deming Greek and Meryl Greek	Meryl Greek	Merritt Greek and Meryl Greek	. Deming Greek	Meryl Creek
Control Period	Spring, 1934	Spring, 1935	Fall, 1935	Fall, 1935	Spring, 1937



1938 PINE BEETLE SURVEY OF PONDEROSA PINE IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

BONANZA AND BLY INFESTATION AREA KLAMATH BASIN, ORE.

LEGEND

AREA BOUNDARIES
UNIT BOUNDARIES
1937 BEETLE LOSS

	0-25 trees per section. Normal infestation. Roughly about 0 to $1/4$ of one percent of stand volume.
t t	25-50 trees per section. Normal infestation. $1/4$ to $1/2$ of one percent of stand volume.
	50-100 trees per section. Light epidemic infestation. 1/2 to 1 percent of stand volume.
	100-200 trees per section. Moderate epidemic infestation. 1 to 2 percent of stand volume.
	200-400 trees per section. Heavy epidemic infestation. 2 to 4 percent of stand volume.
	Over 400 trees per section. Very heavy epidemic infestation. Over 4 percent of stand volume.

PONDEROSA PINE TYPES

Solid colors. Stands containing more than 50% ponderosa pine and of average or better thrift and vigor. In these stands the western pine beetle is the chief tree-killing agent.

Cross-hatched colors. Stands containing from 20-50% ponderosa pine.

Dotted colors. Ponderosa pine stands of marginal or fringe type. In many of these areas drought as well as insects is an important tree-killing factor.

Brown. Cutover land as of Jan. 1, 1938.

U. S. BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE

U. S. FOREST SERVICE

Portland, Oregon

